



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/080,877	02/22/2002	Ronald A. Schachar	PRES06-00181	9828

7590 07/26/2006

Docket Clerk
P.O. Drawer 800889
Dallas, TX 75380

EXAMINER

EREZO, DARWIN P

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3731

DATE MAILED: 07/26/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/080,877

Applicant(s)

SCHACHAR ET AL.

Examiner

Darwin P. Erez

Art Unit

3731

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 May 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 and 31-66 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 10-21 and 65 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9, 31-64 and 66-68 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1, 6-9 and 62-64 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by US 5,522,829 to Michalos.

Regarding Claim 1, Michalos discloses a surgical tool with a curved blade (22) capable of cutting the sclera of the eye [Fig. 1]; and operable to rotate with respect to the surgical tool (the axis line shown in Fig. 1).

Regarding Claim 6, Michalos discloses a first drive shaft (26) coupled to base housing (12/14). Second drive shaft (20) is coupled (attached) to first drive shaft (26). Third drive shaft (28) is mounted on the drive shaft housing (12/14) at a 90-degree angle with respect to the central axis of the drive shaft housing. Surgical blade (22) is coupled to the third drive shaft (28).

Regarding Claims 7 and 8, Michalos discloses a device having a line, which will inevitably form the junction between section (14) and section (16) of the housing [see Attachment #1]. This line is capable of being used as a reference line during the surgery to guide him in cutting the eyeball.

Regarding Claim 9, Michalos discloses a rotatable support arm (32) with a first end coupled to drive shaft (28) and a second end coupled to blade (22) [Column 6, lines

Art Unit: 3731

10-14; Figure 1]. Support arm (32) rotates with the blade. The blade (22) has a curved end [Fig. 1] and another end coupled to support arm (32). The blade is sharp and is capable of being used to cut an incision having the specifications mentioned by Applicant. As noted by Michalos, the depth and size of the incision will correspond to the skill and desire of the surgeon [Column 8, lines 43-52].

Regarding Claims 62-64, Michalos teaches a device that is capable of being manipulated backwards or forwards, up or down, in or out of cavities, and is fully capable of performing any of the recited functions.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1-5, 31-64 and 66-68 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by US 6,328,747 B1 to Nun, and in view of US 5,492,528 to Anis .

Regarding Claims 1, 31, and 56, Nun discloses a surgical tool for making an incision in the eye and includes a surgical blade (246) [Fig. 18] capable of making an incision having the form of a pocket capable of receiving a prosthesis [Column 15, lines 61-63]. Surgical blade (70) is also capable of such a purpose [Fig. 14; Column 10, lines 42-52]. An incision is considered to be merely a cut or hole in body tissue. Nun discloses putting a prosthesis into the eye [Column 16, lines 6-8]. Nun also the blade/drill capable of being operated under control of said surgical tool to rotate with

Art Unit: 3731

respect to the body of the surgical tool but is silent with regards to the drill having a curved shape. However, Anis teaches a device for cataract removal, similar to that of Nun, and also teaches the use of a curved drill (Fig. 4). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to substitute the spear-shaped drill of Nun with the curved drill of Anis because these two drills are art recognized equivalents and would perform the same function of drilling out a cataract.

Regarding Claim 2, the blade 246 (when it is not spinning) is capable of being used to puncture the sclera and form a very small, linear incision in the sclera.

Nun teaches all the limitations of the claim except for the motor capable of providing a bidirectional motion. However, Nun does teach a drive shaft that can freely rotate (col. 17, lines 23-26). Anis teaches an eye surgical device comprising a blade **17A, 17B**, a shaft 18, and a motor capable of providing bidirectional motion (col. 4, lines 36-41). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the device of Nun to use the motor taught by Anis because it would allow the surgeon to reverse the direction of the blade and allow the device/blade to be removed. Moreover, it is well known in the art that most motors are capable of being bidirectional since it merely requires the current to be reversed, as taught by Anis in the recited disclosure above.

Regarding Claims 32-34, 42-43, 48-50, 54, 55, and 57-61, Nun discloses a first drive shaft (248), a drive motor (206), and a control cable (not shown) [Fig. 16; Column 17, lines 23-26 and 48-51; Column 12, lines 1-3]. Electric power comes from an

Art Unit: 3731

external power source (i.e., electricity) so there would need to be a receptacle to allow the electricity to flow into the motor [Column 17, lines 48-54].

Regarding Claims 4, 35-38, 44, and 45, the surgeon can adjust the speed of the motor using controls [Column 15, lines 36-40]. Furthermore, the surgeon can activate the motor to change the angle of the drill blade relative to an eye tissue prior to cutting, which would be synonymous to positioning the blade for incision.

Regarding Claims 5, 39-41, and 51, Nun discloses a foot switch for controlling the speed of the blade [Column 20, lines 59-62]. Foot switches are capable of receiving control signals from the surgeon, such as depressing the pedal in order to tell the motor to rotate faster.

Regarding Claims 46, 47, 52, and 53, Nun's device is capable of rotating the blade once (in a controlled way) in order to make an incision.

Regarding Claims 62-64 and 66-68, the above combination of Nun/Anis teaches a device that is capable of being manipulated backwards or forwards, up or down, in or out of cavities, and is fully capable of performing any of the recited functions.

Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claims 10-21 and 65 are allowed over the prior art of record.

Response to Arguments

6. Applicant's arguments filed 5/2/06 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant's arguments regarding the Michalos reference is not persuasive since Michalos teaches each and every structural elements in the rejected claimed invention.

Art Unit: 3731

The applicant is again reminded that the steps of manipulating a device is irrelevant in a device claim; i.e., it is more appropriate for a method claim. As such, Michalos teaches each and every structural element recited and is fully capable of performing the recited functions. That is, a recitation of the intended use of the claimed invention must result in a structural difference between the claimed invention and the prior art in order to patentably distinguish the claimed invention from the prior art. If the prior art structure is capable of performing the intended use, then it meets the claim. The device of Michalos can be used to make a cut in any portion of the eye, even the scleral tissue along with any other eye tissue.

The Applicant also provides the same arguments against the Nun reference. Again, manipulations of the device in the claimed device invention is not enough to overcome the Nun reference since the device taught by Nun is fully capable of being used for any type of surgery. Forming a scleral pocket is merely a functional limitation and can be performed with any type of cutting instrument by a skilled surgeon. It should also be noted that the claimed device invention by the Applicant is not limited for performing eye surgery, i.e., it could be used to cut any type of body tissue.

Conclusion

7. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Art Unit: 3731

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Darwin P. Erezzo whose telephone number is (571) 272-4695. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (7:30-4:00).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Anhtuan T. Nguyen can be reached on (571) 272-4963. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

de


ANHTUAN T. NGUYEN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
7/19/06.